

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3896

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY CAIRO 4345

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 5276

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IS, RO, XF

SUBJECT: VISIT OF ROMANINA FOREIGN MINISTER SEPT 10-12

1. SUMMARY: MACOVESCU VISIT IS VIEWED BY ISRAELI WITH MIXED FEELINGS. ON PLUS SIDE WAS MERE PRESENCE OF MACOVESCU SYMBOLIZING EXISTENCE OF ISRAEL'S "WINDOW TO THE EAST." ON THE OTHERHAND, ROMANIANS WERE NOT FORTHCOMING ON INCREASED JEWISH IMMIGRATION; ISRAELIS WOULD NOT ENDORSE ROMAINAN DESIRE TO PARTICIAPTE IN GENEVA CONFERENCE, AND ISRAELI IRRIATION OVER MACOVESCU'S PUBLIC COMMENTS RE PALESTINIAN ISSUE SOURED PUBLIC TREATMENT TO SOME EXTENT AND RESULTED IN ISRAEL'S REFUSAL TO ISSUE JOINT COMMUNIQUE DESPITE HEAVY PRESSURE FROM ROMANIANS. DESPITE PROBLEMS, PRESS COVERAGE WAS GENERALLY FAVORABLE DUE AT LEAST TO PART TO OBVIOUS EFFORT ON GOI PART TO ACCENTUATE POSITIVE AND ABILITY OF MACOVESCU TO PROJECT SYMPATHETIC PUBLIC IMAGE.
END SUMMARY.

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2. MACOVESCU AT OFFICIAL DINNER SURPRISED ISRAELI HOSTS

BY REPEATING IN PUBLIC SUBSTANCE OF PITCH HE MADE IN CONVERSATION WITH ISRAELI OFFICIALS RE NECESSITY TO SATISFY LEGITIMATE ASPIRATIONS OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND THEIR RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION, AS ONE PAPER REPORTED, IN HIS REPLY, "FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON DESCRIBED AT LENGTH ATROCITIES COMMITTED BY THE TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING THAT OF YASSER ARAFAT, WHO ROMANIANS REGARD AS A MODERATE." ALLON ALSO NOTED THAT ONLY COUNTRIES WHO WERE NEUTRAL IN THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT COULD ASPIRE TO PLAY A USEFUL MEDIATING ROLE.

3. ISRAELIS HAVE TOLD US THAT, AS RESULT OF MACOVESCU'S PUBLIC COMMENTS, ISRAEL REFUSED TO GO ALONG WITH ROMANIA STRONGLY HELD DESIRE FOR ANODYNE JOINT COMMUNIQUE-- A POSITION ROMANIANS REPORTEDLY COULD NOT BELIEVE UNTIL THEY SAW GOI DRAFT WHICH INCLUDED "NON-NEGOTIABLE" PARAGRAPH OF OUTRIGHT CONDEMNATION OF PALESTINIAN TERRORISM. ACCORDING TO ISRAELIS THEY EXPLAINED AIM WAS TO "BALANCE" BLATANTLY PRO-PALESTINIAN CESUCESCU-ASAD COMMUNIQUE IN KEEPING WITH ROMANIA PROFESSIONS OF "NEUTRALITY" IN ARAB-ISRAELI AFFAIRS* ROMANIANS RELUCTANTLY RECONCILED THEMSELVES TO AGREED PRESS STATEMENT WHICH, AT THEIR REQUEST INITIALLY INCLUDED FINAL PARAGRAPH NOTING ACCEPTANCE BY ISRAEL'S PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER TO VISIT BUCHAREST, AS WELL AS ACCEPTANCE BY ROMANIA PRESIDENT TO VISIT ISRAEL. AT LAST MINUTE, ROMANINA DELETED SENTENCE REFERRING TO CESUCESCU VISIT TO ISRAEL, SO ON ISRAEL'S INSISTENCE BASED ON DEMAND FOR "RECIPROCITY" ENTIRE PARA WAS DROPPED.

4. OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST. MACOVESCU REPEATEDLY EMPHASIZED TO ISRAELIS THAT ROMANIANS HAD AT HIGHEST LEVEL CONVEYED TO ARABS THEIR SUPPORT OF ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST. MACOVESCU ALSO IN PRIVATE STRONGLY AND WITH NO QUALIFICATIONS CONDEMNED TERRORISM. INCREASED JEWISH IMMIGRATION WAS RAISED BY THE ISRAELIS, AND THE ROMANIANS PROMISED TO "CONSIDER" THE REQUEST. FINALLY, MACOVESCU ENDORSED EARLY RECONVENING OF GENEVA CONFERENCE AND REQUESTED ISRAEL'S SUPPORT FOR ROMANIA PARTICIPATION. ISRAELIS WERE NEGATIVE. VELIOTES

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